

MARVEL

CANTWELL • LINS • DÍAZ

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# HELLCAT





Patsy Walker is a former teen celebrity turned super hero with supernatural and psychic powers. During her storied life, she's been an Avenger and private investigator, was married to the Son of Satan, died, went to hell and was resurrected. Having relocated to the West Coast, Patsy is determined to escape the ghosts of her pasts and claw out a new future as...

# HELLCAT

"SHE'S NOT THERE"

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AM I GOOD?





OR AM  
I BAD?





Centerville, California.  
6 Years Old.











MAYBE  
THE JURY'S  
STILL OUT.

Now.

SOME-  
ONE DID A  
NUMBER ON  
YOU, HUH?

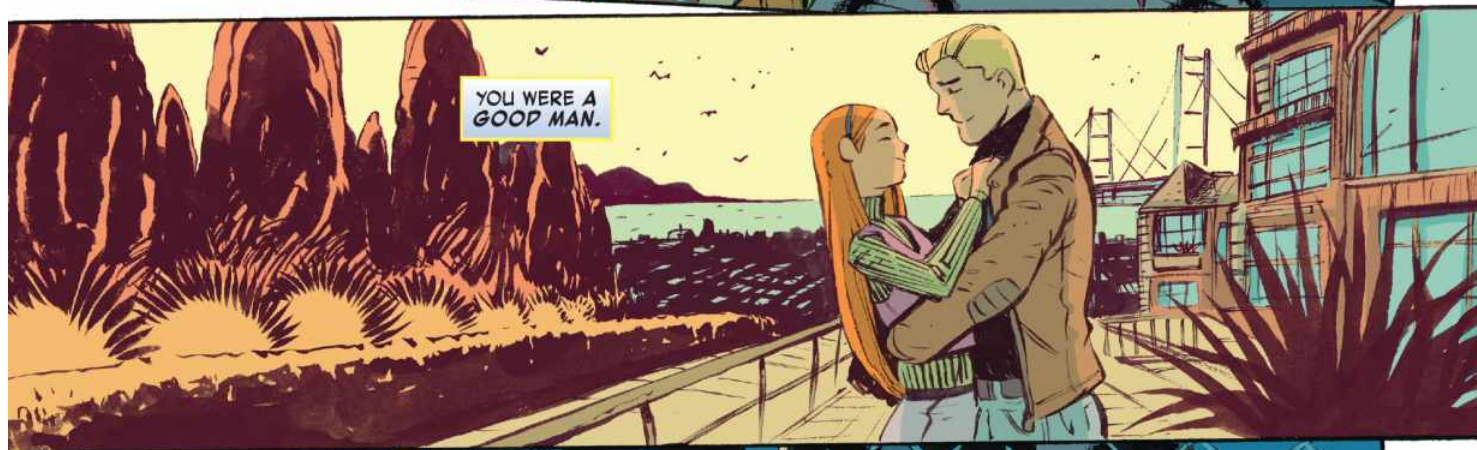
MAYBE IT  
WAS HIM.

YEAH.  
MAYBE HE  
DIDN'T WANT  
YOU TO KILL  
HIM.

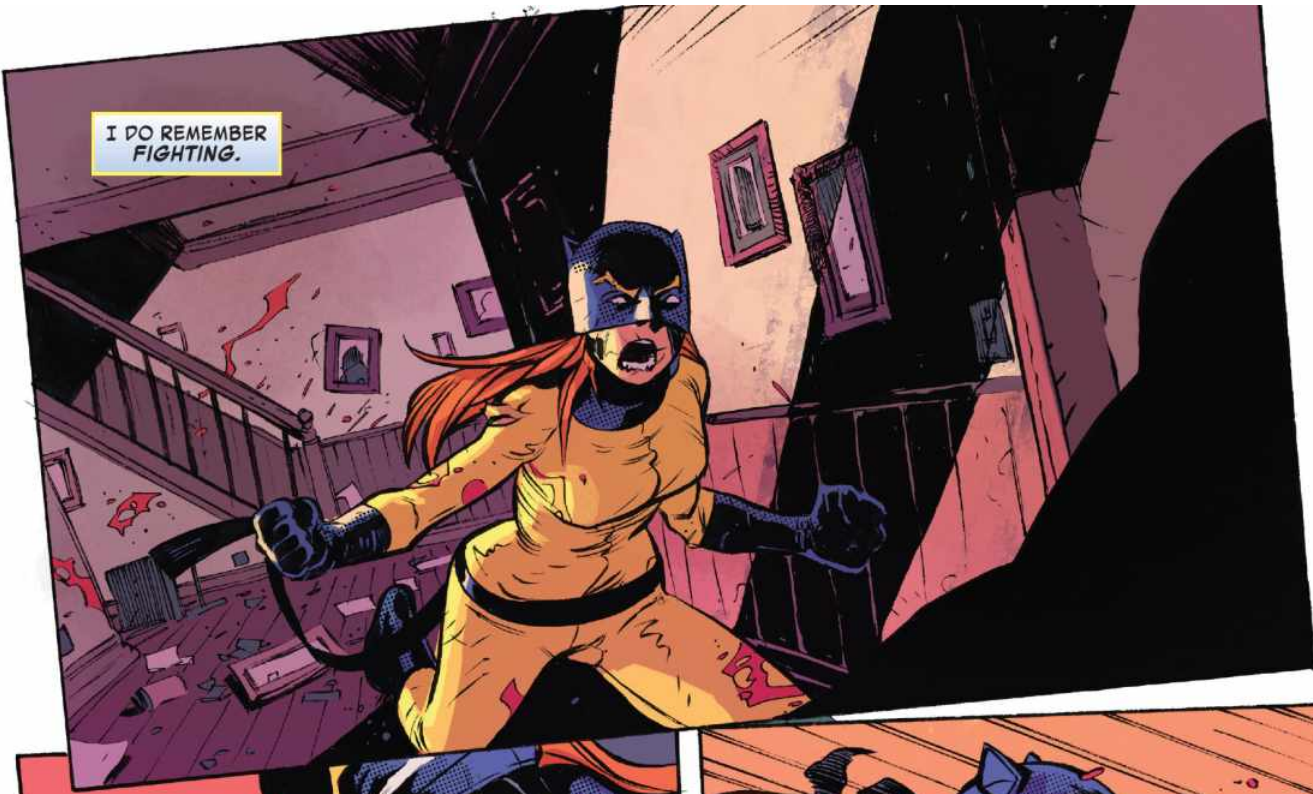
I DIDN'T  
KILL ANY-  
BODY.

YOU  
SURE ABOUT  
THAT, SWEET-  
HEART?









I DO REMEMBER  
FIGHTING.



BUT WHO?



WAS IT YOUR  
KILLER?



OR WAS  
IT YOU?



I REMEMBER...





...A MONTH AGO.  
HEDY'S PARTY.



HER FRIENDS.  
HER INCESSANT  
FRIENDS.



PILETTANTES.  
SYCOPHANTS.



HEDY  
HERSELF, OF  
COURSE.



BUT ALSO...



...YOU.





SO, YOU  
AND HEDY WENT  
TO **HIGH SCHOOL**  
TOGETHER.

YEAH.  
**CENTERVILLE.**



ONLY **DRIVEN**  
THROUGH IT,  
I THINK.

IT'S NOT  
WORTH YOUR  
TIME.



C'MON.  
**SURE IT**  
IS.

NO.  
**TRUST**  
ME.

IT SEEMS  
DESERVING OF **SOME**  
ATTENTION.



WHY'S  
THAT?

BECAUSE IT'S  
WHERE **YOU'RE**  
FROM.



RIGHT.

**YOU.**





YOU'RE FROM WHERE?

I WAS JUST TELLING SPALDING HOW BORING CENTERVILLE IS.

YOU'D BEEN WITH HEDY A YEAR PREVIOUS. **BROKE UP** AFTER A FEW MONTHS...

OH GOD. THE WORST.

I WANT TO SAY IT WAS HER FAULT. BUT THE TRUTH WAS...

I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL LIKE I'M ALREADY PLANNING THE ROAD TRIP IN MY HEAD.

...I HAD NO IDEA WHY.

I'D GIVE YOU A TOUR, BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY... WELCOME...BACK HOME.

BECAUSE I HAD NO IDEA WHO YOU WERE.

NOW I'M REALLY INTERESTED.

MAYBE I STILL DON'T.

PATSY WALKER, A.K.A. HELLCAT.

GUILTY. BUT ONLY OF THAT.















Now.

I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE THAT I LIVE IN THE OLD FAMILY HOME, BUT I DIDN'T MENTION THAT I'M CONSTANTLY HAUNTED BY THE GHOST OF MY MOTHER.

I MEAN, WE ALL ARE-- AS A KIND OF *COLLECTIVE PATHOLOGY*, I GUESS--WHEN IT COMES TO OUR MOTHERS.

BUT MY SITUATION IS LITERAL.

OH, PATRICIA! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

IT'S A LONG STORY.\*

HEY, MOM... KIND OF A BUSY DAY...

YOU. YOU CHEAT. YOU LIAR.





HEDY...  
YOU...YOU AND  
SPALDING HADN'T  
BEEN TOGETHER  
FOR A YEAR.

BUT YOU  
NEVER TOLD  
ME YOU WERE  
SEEING HIM.

HEDY,  
C'MON--



I DON'T CARE  
IF YOU WERE SEEING  
HIM...THAT'S YOUR  
BUSINESS...

BUT,  
PATSY...IF  
YOU HURT  
HIM...



HEDY...



YOU TWO  
GIRLS NEVER  
CHANGE...



LIKE  
YOU KNOW A  
#&@% THING  
ABOUT IT.

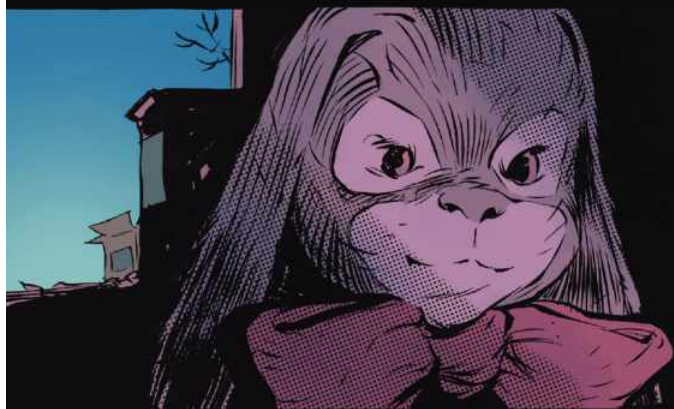




SOMETIMES IT'S HARD  
TO TELL IF MY FRIENDS ARE  
REALLY MY FRIENDS.



OR IF  
I'M REALLY  
THEIRS.



SOMETHING HAS BEEN  
INTERFERING WITH MY  
PSYCHIC ABILITIES FOR  
MONTHS NOW. WHICH  
MEANS I CAN'T READ  
ANYONE ELSE'S MIND  
FOR THE TIME BEING.



NOW I'M IN THE *DARK*.  
JUST LIKE EVERY  
OTHER *SCHNOOK*.





I **SELF-MEDICATE** THESE DAYS. I **SELF-MOST THINGS**, TO BE HONEST.



HIDING **BOOZE** FROM MY MOM. JUST LIKE **HIGH SCHOOL**. ALTHOUGH HOW MUCH CAN YOU HIDE FROM A **GHOST**? A **NOSY** ONE AT THAT.



THE PILLS ARE JUST **PRESCRIPTION IBUPROFEN**, BUT I STILL FEEL A **SHAME** IN IT, EVEN AS MY FACE **THROBS** FROM GETTING **CLOCKED**, **SCRATCHED**, **PUNCHED**, **KICKED**...AND THEN **SLAPPED**.



I'M SURE MY OLD FLAME **TONY STARK** WOULD HAVE SOME THINGS TO SAY ABOUT MY RECENT **SECRET COPING MECHANISMS**...



SNEAKING OUT  
LATE AGAIN.

JUST LIKE THE  
OLD DAYS.

BUT I HAVE  
TO FIND OUT WHAT  
HAPPENED TO YOU.

FIND OUT IF  
I HURT YOU.

GOD, I HOPE I  
DIDN'T HURT YOU.  
AND IF I DIDN'T...

...I HOPE  
I FIND THE  
PERSON  
WHO DID.

SO I CAN  
MAKE THEM  
PAY.



NOBODY  
HOME.

NOT SINCE  
THEY CARTED  
OFF WHAT WAS  
LEFT OF YOU.

I'M SO SORRY,  
SPALDING.

LICE LINE DO NOT  
CROSS

YOU WERE  
GOOD.

BUT YOU  
WERE ALSO  
BEAUTIFUL.

KRASH

THEN SOMEONE  
MUTILATED  
YOU BEYOND  
RECOGNITION.













EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN GETTING TREATMENT HERE FOR NEARLY A MONTH NOW, FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, HE STILL *SLEEPWALKS*.

AND WHEN RICK *SHERIDAN* SLEEPWALKS, A BEING FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION EMERGES.

AND THIS BEING *SOLVES* CRIMES ROOTED IN THE WORLD OF DREAMS.

I'M IMAGINING WHAT YOUR FACE WOULD'VE *LOOKED* LIKE IF I'D EVER GOTTEN AROUND TO TELLING YOU THIS.



SOMETIMES  
I HELP HIM.

OF COURSE I DO.  
YOU KNOW THE KIND OF  
COMPANY I KEEP.

YOU KNEW  
WHO I AM. YOU  
KNEW ABOUT  
HELLCAT.

EVERYBODY  
DOES, AFTER ALL.

BUT THERE  
WAS ALSO  
A LOT...

...THAT YOU  
DIDN'T KNOW.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING  
HERE? I MEAN...WHY  
AREN'T YOU--?



SLEEPWALKING?



YEAH.



LIKE I SAID,  
SLEEPWALKER IS A  
SEPARATE BEING.



WELL...  
BECAUSE  
I...



RICK,  
WHAT IS  
IT?



IN THIS MOMENT--CALL IT A  
GUT INSTINCT--I DECIDE TO TELL  
NEITHER RICK NOR HIS MISSING  
ALTER EGO ABOUT WHAT I FOUND  
IN THE FLOOR WHERE YOU DIED.



I...



THE IMAGINATOR. SLEEP-  
WALKER'S BADGE THAT  
GIVES HIM HIS REALITY-  
BENDING POWERS.



THE KIND OF  
POWERS THAT  
COULD'VE  
KILLED YOU.

I...



CHEESE N'  
CRACKERS, RICK,  
SPIT IT OUT  
ALREADY--

I'VE ME AND





"SUSPENDED  
BY THE LARGER  
COLLECTIVE..."

"...PENDING THE  
RESULTS OF THEIR  
INVESTIGATION."









BECAUSE  
I'M IN LOVE  
WITH YOU.

I'M TELLIN' YA--  
TELEPATHY WOULD  
REALLY COME IN  
HANDY THESE DAYS.

AH WELL.









To be continued!



# HELLCAT

Welcome to our inaugural issue of **HELLCAT**! The genesis of this new series can be traced back to several sources. Firstly, there is Christopher Cantwell's epic **IRON MAN** run, in which Chris reintroduced Hellcat as a part of Iron Man's world and developed her character in new and fascinating ways. That, in turn, led to the **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL #1**, also written by Chris, in which Patsy moved to San Francisco and struck out on her own. In that issue, we encouraged readers to write to us if they wanted to see more of Patsy (and Hedy!).

And now we reach the third and final reason this new series exists: you! In my years at Marvel, I've never seen such a flood of heartfelt, encouraging--and demanding!--letters asking us to launch a new **HELLCAT** series. So let me extend my gratitude to all of you for your support and enthusiasm.

As a lifelong fan of the character and her crazy and complex history, I'm proud to say that this is the **HELLCAT** comic and creative team I've always dreamed of. I hope you all find this new

series equally thrilling. Below, we wanted to share just a few of the letters we received from around the world in response to the annual. Please keep reading and writing in!

Martin Biro  
Editor

Hi, guys,  
I recently read the **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL**, and I was thoroughly delighted. Cantwell has been killing it with Patsy Walker. Her bizarrely unique comic history has been used to the advantage of the story, and I'd really like to see more of her in the future. I work in Sub City Comics in Dublin, and I can tell you firsthand that people are digging it. Iron Man has always been my favorite character, but seeing Hellcat take the reins for this issue was a really cool tale for an issue. Also, have to give credit to Coleman for drawing a good issue too, and that Lubera cover is enticing enough to make even Hellstrom want to have a read. Anyway, until Blackheart joins a nunnery, Make Mine Hellcat! I mean, Marvel!

P.S.: Bring those Patsy Walker

digital comics to print for us fans of the floppy issues!

James Hagan  
Ireland

Thanks for the support, James! While Ruairi Coleman, who drew the annual, wasn't able to join us this go-around, I think you'll be equally dazzled by Alex Lins' art!

So, yes, please, thank you for asking, I would absolutely like more Patsy Walker content that isn't an **IRON MAN** book (no offense to Mister Stark--I just think she's great as the headliner). It's honestly, like, one of my most wanted single things in comics, up there with a new **CHAMPIONS** relaunch (it's been ages; I need more Viv!).

Anyway! In the meantime, until Patsy does get a new run of her own, I really enjoyed the Hellcat annual featuring Iron Man! Good stuff! Thank you very much, and also thank you again for asking if I cared! Because I do! A lot!

Fun2building

Thanks for caring (and writing)!



Hey, Marvel,

I just got through the IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL, and the text in the back said to let you know if I want more of Patsy and Hedy. I definitely do!

I just started reading comics last month, and one of the first things I picked up was the 2014 SHE-HULK collection. Patsy was a ton of fun in that; I loved her friendship with Jen, and after finishing that collection, she was one of the first characters I started looking for more material on. I think her backstory is growing more true to life every year. With her mother writing about her for her entire childhood, it's like she's a prototype "Content Kid." You know, those parents who churn out mountains of content with or about their children, basically publishing their whole childhood online. I love the explorations of how that affected her and her overall relationship with her family.

So basically, I think Patsy's got it all. Cool costume, relatable sense of humor, fun power set and a really compelling backstory. I'm really hoping we get more of her soon! Maybe reconnecting with Jen, even--they're just so fun together.

Thanks for taking a second to read some fan mail.

Jupiter Jones

Your "content kid" analysis

is spot-on, Jupiter! The more things change, the more they stay the same, I guess. Stay tuned to see if Shulkie will make an appearance in these pages...

Hi from the Dominican Republic where we have had two seasons of "summer" and HELL. A friend from the States (comics are not easy to find here) gifted me a copy IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL and boy oh boy, I was stunned. From the great art to the promised Hell plot, I'm ready to tip my toes and whole body in the pits of Hell to get the other issues going. I know that the character of Hellcat has some history in the Marvel Universe, but just from this glimpse at her, I know there's a lot of potential. Also loved the appearance of Blackheart, whom I first knew about from the *Marvel Super Heroes* fighting game and was intrigued by his design and powers.

Hope that you continue Patsy's adventures and make Hellcat a more known female super hero. And how was it again? Make Mine Marvel! (Is that still a thing? I've only got old issues here.)

Leorian

While we are sorry to hear that you've had some rough summers, Leorian, we're grateful to you for taking the time to write--and to your friend for passing along the annual! We hope you can get your hands on this issue a bit more easily. "Make Mine Marvel"

is definitely still a thing--just ask James from Ireland!

Hi there,

I just finished reading IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL #1, and it was spectacular. Patsy is a favorite of mine, and I loved seeing her complex journey and mind explored. It was a delight to see her return to San Francisco and interact with Hedy. I'd really love to see more of Patsy and Hedy in the future. I'd also love it if we saw Ian Soo/Telekinian, Tom Hale and Bailey/Attaché again, as I loved their relationships with each other and their friendships with Patsy. If Patsy is going to be in San Francisco for a bit, I can't imagine she wouldn't reach out to them and see how the Patsy Walker Temp Agency is doing.

This was a great issue, and I'd love to see more of Patsy and Hedy and their world in the future!

Sincerely,  
Sam

I'm also a fan of those characters from the previous series, Sam--though Patsy's dance card is already pretty full with other folks from her past.

That's all we've got room for at the moment, but continue to email us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and be sure to mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them featured in future issues!



NEXT

#2





